

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of April 16 - April 20, 2007**

1. **Electronics Recycling Event:** Saturday, April 21, from 10am to 1:30pm, at the Library Parking lot. Bring any small electronic equipment (TV's radios, stereos, CD players) or computer components (CPU, monitor, keyboard, mouse, etc.). The items will be recycled, processed and, in some cases, reused. *(Public Works)*
2. **Open Meetings Act Training for City Committees:** Maryland Assistant Attorney General Jack Schwartz has been invited to conduct an Open Meetings Act training session for committee chairs, other interested committee members, and staff liaisons. The training will be held on Wednesday, May 16, at 7:00 p.m. City TV staff will video the session for use in future training. *(City Clerk's Office)*
3. **City Managers' Meeting:** On Thursday and Friday, City Manager Barbara Matthews and Community and Government Liaison Suzanne Ludlow attended the annual conference of the Maryland City/County Management Association in Greenbelt. Topics included legal issues related to electronic messages; governmental regulations and green buildings; and a State legislative summary. *(Community & Government Liaison)*
4. **Takoma-Piney Branch Park Invasives:** Park and Planning has begun a multi-year effort of removing invasive plants at the park, located behind Piney Branch Elementary School. Staff have begun "bush hogging" the area below the Darwin Avenue parking lot and areas of the bamboo. The work will also allow for better visibility of the park for Park Police. This will be followed by additional work on the slope below the parking lot and will include limbing up of all dead branches on the trees. Per the approved concept plan, the areas cleared will be eventually planted with appropriate plant material. No trees will be cut down. Detailed designs for the park renovation are in preparation. *(Community & Government Liaison)*
5. **Best of the Year!:** On April 17, PFC Paula Gaskin was honored by the Takoma Park Lions Club for being selected as the 2006 Takoma Park Police Officer of the Year. Chief Ricucci, Lt. Collington, Cpl. John and PFC Erwin were present for the honors. *(Police)*
6. **The Chief in Meetings:** On April 17, Chief Ricucci attended the Circle Woods Neighborhood Association meeting at John Nevins Andrews School. On April 18, the Chief met with members of the SS Carroll Neighborhood Association to outline his community policing philosophy and goals for the Department. D/Cpl. John and Cpl. Smith were also present to provide technical information to the group. *(Police)*
7. **Officers in Training:** From April 16 to April 18, Det./Cpl. Cannatella attended a training seminar titled "Conducting Death & Homicide Investigations." On April 18, Pvt's Quante and Barber attended training titled "Hate in America Today: A National Overview of Far-Right Domestic Terrorism." *(Police)*
8. **Traffic Enforcement (Wards 1, 3, & 5):** Officers conducted at least 66 traffic stops this week, 52 of which resulted in citations, and two vehicles impounded. More than half of the stops were made on New Hampshire Avenue, Flower Avenue, and Piney Branch Road. *(Police)*

9. **Officers on Detail:** Officers were assigned to a detail at Takoma Middle School on April 19 and 20 to provide a high visibility security presence given recent events at the school with two students, and in view of the anniversary of Columbine, and the recent mass shooting at Virginia Tech. *(Police)*

10. **Adventist Student Clean-Up:** On April 20, a Takoma Park Police officer was detailed to assist with traffic control. Over 400 students from Takoma Academy, Sligo Adventist School, and J. N. Andrews School participated in support of a student initiative for clean up of the Takoma/Langley Park area in preparation for Earth Day. City TV brought their video camera to document the event for a future segment in Snapshots. *(Police and CityTV)*

11. **Mulch Available:** The City's leaf mulch is available for self-hauling anytime or deliveries on Friday. Call Public Works to arrange delivery. Cost is \$45 for 3 yard load, and \$65 for 7 or 10 yard loads. The mulch is the ground leaves collected around the City this past Fall. The mulch pile is at the Public Works Yard, 31 Oswego Avenue. *(Public Works)*

12. **Tenant Capacity Building (Ward 2):** Educational training was provided this week to tenants residing at 701-03 Ethan Allen Avenue. The program, entitled "Credit for First Time Home Buyers," was led by the Latino Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) conducted in English and Spanish. The tenant association is currently exploring its option to purchase the rental facility. *(Housing and Community Development)*

13. **First Time Home Buyer Seminar (City-wide):** Five potential home owners attended a First Time Home Buyer seminar on April 14 conducted by LEDC. Speakers from the State of Maryland's More House 4 Less Program, Bank of America, and a real estate agency attended and provided valuable information on the process of buying a first home. The seminar was conducted in Spanish. The program will be offered again in English on May 19 from 8:30am - 1:30pm. Those interested in attending should contact Linda Walker at 301.891.7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*

14. **Long Branch Advisory Committee (Ward 5):** Staff has learned that Montgomery County is seeking applicants for membership on the Long Branch Advisory Committee. The Committee serves as an advisory board to county staff on the implementation of a variety of projects which further the residential and commercial revitalization of the Long Branch neighborhood, which includes much of Takoma Park's Ward 5. There are currently five vacancies on the Committee. If you - or someone you know - own property or live or work in Long Branch and are interested in applying, please contact Sara Anne Daines at SaraD@takomagov.org for more information. The deadline for applying is May 1, 2007. *(Housing and Community Development)*

15. **Save the Date - Plan to Volunteer! Main Street Takoma Spring Clean-up Day (Wards 1 and 3):** Consider volunteering for the Main Street Takoma Design Committee's second annual Spring Clean-up Day. Volunteers are needed on Saturday, April 28 from 9am-12noon to help spruce up Old Takoma from Takoma Junction to 4th Street NW. For more information or to sponsor the event, please contact designcommittee@takomamainstreet.org. *(Housing and Community Development)*

16. **New Hampshire Avenue Corridor Update (Wards 2, 3, and 6):** HCD staff met with the Department of Economic Development this week to formalize a series of

planned one-on-one visits with business located along the corridor. Additional follow-up, based up on the outcome of these discussions, will be customized to address the needs of the individual businesses. *(Housing and Community Development)*

17. Coordination with State Highway Administration (City-wide): Staff met with the District 3 Assistant District Engineer of Traffic to discuss traffic concerns raised by the community during the course of the development of planned neighborhood traffic studies. SHA has proposed that the City partner with the State in the development of a comprehensive master plan to upgrade pedestrian and ADA access on State and City roads. If approved, this would be a pilot project and would recognize the City as an area of "concentrated pedestrian activity" within the overall State Highway system. Additional information on this proposal will be forwarded as it becomes available. *(Housing and Community Development)*

18. Safe Routes to School Workshops (City-wide): The City hosted two workshops this week to identify projects which might qualify for funding under next year's Safe Routes to School program. The Safe Routes to School program provides federal grant funds for projects which increase the number of children who walk and bicycle safely to school. The City received funding from this program for a number of projects during the last grant cycle and is interested in applying for additional funds. *(Housing and Community Development)*

19. Poetry Reading Series Update - Open Reading (City-wide): Fourteen local poets presented their work at the Arts and Humanities Commission's open poetry reading last night. The series, organized and hosted by Poet Laureate Don Berger, features the work of area poets such as Tom Alderson, Ryan Holman, and Laura Lauth, who are scheduled to read on May 17. The readings are held monthly and are free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Arts and Humanities Commission at ahc@takomagov.org. *(Housing and Community Development)*

20. Favorite Poem: All are invited to join their friends and neighbors in attending the 9th Annual Favorite Poem Evening at the Library at 7:30pm on Thursday, April 26th. The event is hosted by Takoma Park Poet Laureate Don Berger. Refreshments courtesy of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. Call 301-891-7259 for information. *(Library)*

21. Bedtime Story Hour: The "Bedtime Story Hour" returns to the Library on April 30 at 7 pm. Bring your teddy bear or other favorite stuffed animal, pajamas, pillow, etc. For younger children and their parents or care givers. Call 301-891-7259 to sign up. *(Library)*

22. Making Mom's Day: On Monday, May 7, children are invited to join Karen MacPherson to make Mother's Day crafts. Call the Library to sign up. *(Library)*

23. Celebrating Spring: On April 16, children celebrated spring by creating poetry with local poet Rosanne Singer. *(Library)*

24. Teen Book Club: The "Teen Book Club" met on April 19 and discussed a short story by local author Joy Jones. *(Library)*

25. **Takoma Park Teens at Night:** Takoma Park teens participate in a weekly Friday Night Out Trip. This past week, teens engaged in one of their favorite activities which is "Lights Out Night" at the roller skating rink. Skaters are given free glow sticks which create swirling flashes of light in the dimmed rink. Takoma Park teens really "Get Out & Play." The recreation staff has been great about recruiting and maintaining a group of teens for these outings. The average number of teens attending the trips is 15 - 20 youth. *(Recreation)*